



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged in Van Pursuit

A 46-year-old felon was charged today with leading police on a pursuit with a stolen van that left multiple people injured, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Karapet Kirichyan (dob 8/6/72) of North Hollywood faces three felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon, a vehicle, one felony count each of fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle while driving recklessly, driving or taking a vehicle without consent and two felony counts of hit and run resulting in injury to another person.

The criminal complaint includes one misdemeanor count of hit and run driving resulting in property damage and allegations of prior convictions for burglary, vehicle theft and grand theft.

Case LA089826 was filed today. The arraignment is scheduled to be held in Department 100 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Van Nuys Branch.

On Jan. 9, Kirichyan allegedly stole a work van on the 10700 block of Magnolia Blvd in Van Nuys. Los Angeles police officers spotted the van in the 6900 block of Ranchito Avenue and initiated a pursuit, prosecutors said.

During the pursuit, the defendant allegedly collided with vehicles, causing injury to the occupants, and knocked down a tri-light pole, prosecutors added. The pursuit ended in Hollywood.

Bail is requested at \$355,000. Kirichyan faces a possible maximum sentence of more than 13 years in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.